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Abercrombie

ABERCROMBIE: this is the name of a parish in Fife, Scotland. The first possessor of this name evidently adopted it from this parish. Aber signifies a marshy or low-lying place, and Crombie means a creek. Consequently this term came to signify the confluence of two or more streams.

Abercrombies have been prominent in public affairs in the Southern States and elsewhere, since the earliest times. It is a name that is esteemed for lives of usefulness of its members in every phase of endeavor" Ruby Haskins, in Romance of Your Name.

"This family has played a conspicuous part in Georgia and Alabama history and short sketches of the various members appear in the usual sources but no complete genealogy has appeared." from the Gulf States Historical Magazine.

"The Abercrombie family had great prestige from their wealth and social position, also from the superior intellect and manly qualities they possessed." Garrett's Public Men in Alabama. P. 55.

Our ancestor, Sir James Abercrombie, married Mary Gordon, daughter of Sir Arthur Gordon of Straloch; the father of Sir James was Sir Alexander Abercrombie and he was the son of Alexander Abercrombie of Birkenbog, Grand Falconer in Scotland to King Charles I.

Sir Alexander, first Baronet of Birkenbog was created Baronet of Nova Scotia 20th of February, 1636. Was member of Parliament from Banfishire; this Sir Abercrombie was married three times. By his first wife, Elizabeth Baird, daughter of Sir James Baird of Auchmedde, he had two sons, his heir, Sir James, and Alexander, ancestor of Lord Alexander.

Sir James came to America about 1720, coming to South Carolina. There is no record that his wife ever came with him, a number of sons came and later other sons and grandsons. He made frequent trips back to the Mother Country in the interest of the Colonies; and finally before the Revolution went back to live. All the Abercrombies in America remained Royalist with the exception of our ancestor Robert, (son of Sir James); he and his sons were in the Colonial Army.

In the Historical Magazine of S.C., Vol.?, Page 187, James Abercrombie is mentioned as Hon. Justice in 1734, also in N. C. History he figures largely in the dividing line between N. C. and S. C. In Chandler's Colonial Record of Georgia frequent mention is made of James Abercrombie in his official capacity. Smith's History of S. C. mentions him as Attorney-General 1728-1742. Royal land grants to James Abercrombie are recorded in Columbia as follows:

In Craven District	1736-1739	200 acres
		3,000 acres
		1,000 acres
On the Poe Dee River		400 acres
On the Waccamaw River		980 acres
In the Craven District		200 acres
		<u>7,180 acres</u>

About 1731 the old White Meeting House of Circular Church (in Charleston) had a disunion of sentiment upon Ecclesiastical Government which caused twelve families to leave it and put up another edifice, the First or Scotch Presbyterian Church and called a minister from Scotland; James Abercrombie was one of the twelve patriarchs of this church.

When the St. Cecelia Society was organized in Charleston in 1762, James Abercrombie was a member and probably a founder, and a distinguished violinist. These facts are from Charleston, Historic and Romantic, by Harriet Leiding.

Robert, the son of Sir James, was born in Scotland in 1715. He married his cousin Helen Abercrombie of Tillybody, Scotland. In 1740 he moved to Orange County, North Carolina. On May 22, 1757 a council was held at New Bern, North Carolina. There he was Justice of the Peace for Orange County, served from 1757 to 1778, 21 years. (North Carolina Record, Vol. 5, page 831.)

Children of Robert Abercrombie:

Charles	born March 4, 1742 ✓	died 1818	married Melinda Edwina Booth <i>Married 1769</i>
Robert, Jr.	born 1745		
Mary	born 1747		
Jeminy	born 1749		
Meborn	born 1751		

Two sons, Charles and Robert, Jr., were members of Congress, (North Carolina Record, Vol. 28)

Charles, born 1742, was the oldest son of Robert and was our ancestor. He married Melinda Edwina Booth probably in North Carolina. He was a major in the American Revolution and in "Georgia Landmarks Memoire and Legends", his record as a Revolutionary officer may be found. Also that he became one of the richest and most influential citizens of Putnam County, Georgia. Charles and Robert gave a deed to the City of Sparta, Georgia, for the land on which the Court House now stands and the Confederate Park across the street, December 31, 1795, Books A. B.

Children of Major Charles Abercrombie:

Abner,	born Jan. 16, 1771	married Patterson
Edmund	born Jan. 13, 1773	married Mary Pollard
Sara	born June 17, 1775	married Theo Wilkins Rain
Wiley	born Feb. 17, 1777	married Eliza Carson
Leonard	born Feb. 21, 1779	married Sara Comer
Jane	born Dec. 25, 1781	married Boling Hall
Isaac	born 1783	married Elizabeth Martin
Anderson	born Aug. 28, 1780	married Sidney Grimes, 2/24/1818
Nancy	born June 3, 1788	married William Barnes
Charles	born April 18, 1790	married Mrs. Elizabeth Grimes Martin
Milo	born 1792	married Mary Fisher of Alabama
Mary	born 1794	
James	born 1795	married Evelina Ross
Elizabeth	born 1798	married Nicholas Howard

MARSHALL'S RESERVE - Captain James Abercrombie, General Anderson Abercrombie, Picnic, Charles Abercrombie - from The Alabama Historical Quarterly, Marie Bankhead Owen, Editor. Emmett Kilpatrick, Co-Editor, published by the State Department of Archives and History Vol. 15; no. 2. Chapter XV, page 243.

Probably the largest amount of money paid for a single section of unimproved land before the Creek War in Alabama, was for "Ben Marshall reserve." By the last treaty concluded at Washington, March 24, 1832, between the U.S. Government and the Creek Indians, a reserve of one mile square was made for the benefit of each chief of the tribe, and a half section to the head of each family. The reserve which fell to the half-breed Chief, Ben Marshall, lay opposite Columbus, the western bank of the Chattahoochee River being the eastern boundary, and reaching from a point opposite the northern limit of that city considerably below the lower wagon bridge.

On the 19th of June, 1832, this reserve was purchased from Marshall by Colonel Daniel McDonald and Dr. Robert Collins, both of Georgia, for \$35,000. This section lay opposite Coweta Falls and at that early date, this point was highly prized as the future seat of the "Lowell of the South", which idea has in a measure been realized. It is now clear to all, that the present capacity of the cotton factories at that point will be trebled in the course of a quarter of a century, and before Columbus is a hundred years old it will be the largest cotton manufacturing city in the world, as her available water power can never be over-taxed, and is supposed by Northern men in manufacturing circles, who have inspected it, to be sufficient to work up all the cotton now produced in the world. This view of the subject renders the land contingent, on this side of the river in Lee and Russell counties, invaluable as resident lots for the thousand operatives who will, in the years to come, be connected with the manufacturing industry.

While these transactions were going on up the river, the farming interests were rapidly developed on the rich alluvial bottom below, and the foundations were being laid for the development of one of the most desirable agricultural districts in East Alabama. Coweta Bend, about five or six miles below Girard, was the seat of a large Indian town, and the lands surrounding this town, embracing about twenty-five thousand acres, were very rich, and directly after the treaty bought up by enterprising farmers, among whom were the Abercrombies, from Georgia. There were three brothers of this family, who during the thirties settled on the bend, the youngest of whom, Captain James Abercrombie, I shall notice first, from the fact that he was the first to emigrate to Alabama.

CAPTAIN JAMES ABERCROMBIE was born in Hancock County, Georgia, about 1790. In 1815, when he was about twenty-five years of age, he married a Miss Ross, whose family was from South Carolina and emigrated to Fort Jackson, in Alabama, about that time. He first settled on Line Creek, a few miles from Mt. Meigs, and ten or fifteen miles east from Montgomery. The county at that time was in undisputed possession of the Creek Indians, and the few whites who lived among them were of a venturesome sort and of a pioneer element, ever holding themselves ready for any and all emergencies. But they cultivated peace and lived in harmony with their dusky neighbors. Whenever troubles did occur, the strife invariably proved the outcome of some foreign element, originating from personal private interests outside. The communities in themselves were harmonious and peaceful. Capt. Abercrombie remained there until 1835, when he moved to Russell County and settled on the Coweta Road, about three miles from Columbus, where he purchased a large and fertile tract of land for farming purposes. His contemporaries were Dr. Hoxey, next above him, and Paddy Carr next above Dr. Hoxey. The next below was a large plantation owned by his two brothers, Anderson and Charlie Abercrombie. Col. John Crowell owned what was known as Broken Arrow Bend below. These were all large plantations and embraced over 15,000 acres, which necessarily required a colony of slaves under wise and judicious control and management to render them profitable, and they were profitable; the lands being proverbially fertile and all these families grew wealthy in a few years.

In 1859 Captain Abercrombie sold his plantation to Col. Talliaferro for \$40,000 and moved to Pensacola, Florida, and settled a plantation of 2,000 acres above that city. He lived only three years (two is correct, L.A.) dying in Pensacola in 1861, and was buried in Columbus, by the side of his excellent wife, who preceded him about four years. Late in life Captain Abercrombie and his wife united with St. Luke Church in Columbus, where they were sincere worshippers, answering readily and cheerfully all the claims of the church upon them.

This worthy couple laid the foundation of a large family, there being ten children born to them: Mrs. Eveline Wright, late of Montgomery County, Alabama; James Abercrombie, Jr. late of Pensacola, Florida; Mrs. Sarah Smith, late of Barbour County, Alabama; Mrs. James Bacon, late of Columbus, Georgia; Mrs. Parthenia Clanton, relict of the late Gen. James H. Clanton, of Montgomery; Thomas Abercrombie, late of Louisiana; Mrs. Clara Cooke, of Montgomery, and George Abercrombie, who died in Tennessee. Thomas and George served in the Confederate Army, Thomas being Captain of Cavalry and in command of the regiment. Mrs. Clanton, and Mrs. Cook, both of Montgomery, are the only survivors of their generation of this branch of a large family. Captain Abercrombie was a commissioned officer in the War of 1812, and was in the battle of Callabee and Ottosee. From 1840 to 1850 he represented Russell County, first in the House and later in the Senate of the legislature, and in 1851, was elected to represent the Second Congressional District in Congress. At the expiration of his first term he wished to retire, but his friends would not consent and he was re-elected to a second term, which he served faithfully and in opposition to the urgent wishes of his constituents retired from political life, his ambition being fully satisfied and his death was considered an event of national regret.

GENERAL ANDERSON ABERCROMBIE was born in 1785 in Hancock County, Georgia. At the age of thirty-two he married Miss Sidney Grimes of Georgia (Sparta), who had the reputation of being the handsomest lady of her day in Greene County. In February 1832, General Abercrombie moved to Russell County, Alabama, and in connection with his brother, Charles, purchased a large tract of land on Coweta Bend embracing the Indian town of Coweta, part of which purchase money was paid to the Indians and part to the Columbus Land Company. This was a few miles from Fort Mitchell.

By reference to county records at Seale, I find the name of Anderson Abercrombie as foreman of the first Grand Jury ever empaneled in a Russell County Circuit Court in 1833. Since that date his name appears on the jury list every year, up to a short time before his death. He was a general, commanding cavalry brigade, under Gen. Floyd in the War of 1812. He was in the battle of Ottosee and Calleebee, and was wounded in the left arm in the battle of Calleebee by a rifleshoot. He was also in the service in the War of 1836. He was the first president of the Mobile and Girard Railroad, which office he resigned on account of his duties encroaching upon the time required in the management of a large and increasing farming interest, at which period had reached a capacity of 350 bales of cotton, 12,000 bushels of corn annually, besides 300 sheep, 250 goats and 700 hogs. The income from such a plantation was considered princely in those days.

General Abercrombie served two terms in the Georgia Legislature from Hancock County, before he emigrated to Alabama. In this state he was frequently offered political promotion but positively declined, holding that there was more honor in obeying the laws than in making them. He devoted himself entirely to his farming interests and the local claim of his neighborhood in the private social walks of life.

After his father's death, General Abercrombie was appointed administrator on the estate, which was an unusually large one for the times and required more than ordinary business capacity to bring to a speedy, successful and satisfactory close, involving nice and obscure points of law. This brought him in close business contact with the best legal talent of the Georgia bar, which acquired for him a familiar knowledge of the legal profession seldom possessed by a private citizen, so when he came to Alabama, he soon ranked as the best jurist in private life, in the county, if not in the state, and was honored and respected. The venerable Judge G. D. Hooper, of Opelika, who in his prime was a contemporary and warm friend of General Abercrombie, regarded him as a man for whom nature had done more and education less, than any man in Russell County and the County recognized the fact, regarding him as the only peer of ex-Governor Hamilton, of South Carolina, who settled on the Oswichie Bend in 1842, and afterwards moved to Texas and died.

General Abercrombie died suddenly while on a visit to his daughter, February 21, 1867, aged 82 years, and was laid in the family burying ground at the old homestead, in Russell County, where his faithful companion, of more than fifty years, followed him in 1876. I am permitted to add the following testimony written by Gen. Robert Toombs, of Georgia, to one of his sons: "I never had a better friend than General Anderson Abercrombie, than whom God never made a truer, braver or better man."

Mrs. Elizabeth Howard, wife of the late N. Howard of Wynnnton, Ga.; John G. Abercrombie, still living on a part of the old estate; Mrs. Sarah Abercrombie, wife of James Abercrombie, Jr., late of Pensacola, Florida; Dr. Charles T. Abercrombie, who died on a portion of the old estate a few years ago; Judge J. J. Abercrombie, of Opelika; Edward H. Abercrombie of Russell County; Mrs. Josephine Belser, and

Abercrombie, Mr James; Robert; Helen; Leming; Melborn;
 Mordon, Mary
 Baird, Elizabeth
 Booth, Melinda Edwina
 Patterson
 Pollard, Mary
 Rain, Theo Drilkins
 Carson, Eliza
 Cromer, Sara
 Hall, Boling
 Martin, Elizabeth
 Grimes, Sidney
 Barnes, William
 Martin, Mrs. Elizabeth Grimes
 Fisher, Mary
 Ross, Evelina
 Howard, Nicholas
 Marshall, Ben
 McDonald, Daniel
 Collins, Robert
 Crowell, John
 Hoxey, Dr
 Carr, Paddy
 Galliaferro, Col

Charles; Anderson;
 Abercrombie children
 to James & Evelina Ross
 Evaline Wright
 James Abercrombie
 Sarah Smith
 James Bacon
 Parthenia Clanton
 Thomas Abercrombie (CS)
 Clara Cook
 George Abercrombie (CSA)

7.